

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL Claim 6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND Claims 1 and 12-16 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording ink comprising:

a high-molecular dispersant[.];

a water-insoluble colorant encapsulated with said high-molecular dispersant, said colorant being at least one colorant selected from the group consisting of C.I. Pigment Yellow 3, C.I. Pigment Yellow 74, C.I. Pigment Yellow 93, C.I. Pigment Yellow 95, C.I. Pigment Yellow 109, C.I. Pigment Yellow 120, C.I. Pigment Yellow 128, C.I. Pigment Yellow 138, C.I. Pigment Yellow 151, C.I. Pigment Yellow 175, C.I. Pigment Yellow 183, C.I. Pigment Yellow 184, C.I. Pigment Black 1, C.I. Pigment Black 7, C.I. Pigment Black 10, C.I. Pigment Black 31, C.I. Pigment Black 32, C.I. Pigment Red 12, C.I. Pigment Red 122, C.I. Pigment Red 184, C.I. Pigment Red 202, C.I. Pigment Violet 19, C.I. Pigment Violet 32, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:1, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:2, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:3, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:4, C.I. Pigment Blue 15:6, C.I. Pigment Blue 16, and C.I. Pigment Green 7[.];

a water-soluble organic solvent[.];

at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a calcium compound and a magnesium compound[.];

an aluminum compound $[[.]_x$ and

water,

wherein said high-molecular dispersant is a block copolymer comprising at least one hydrophobic block and at least one hydrophilic block, and said at least one hydrophobic block and at least one hydrophilic block have been obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers, respectively, and a content of said aluminum compound in said ink is from 1:300 to 1:20 in terms of a molar ratio of said aluminum compound to said high-molecular dispersant,

wherein a weight percent of said calcium compound to said inkjet recording ink and a weight percent of said magnesium compound to said inkjet recording ink are in the range of from 0.00015 wt.% to 0.05 wt.%, and

wherein a weight percent of said aluminum compound to said inkjet recording ink is in the range of from 0.00002 wt.% to 0.002 wt.%.

2-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An inkjet recording ink according to claim 1, wherein said aluminum compound is at least one of aluminum hydroxide and aluminum oxide.

8. (Previously Presented) An inkjet recording ink according to claim 1, wherein said at least one hydrophilic block in said high-molecular dispersant is formed of an anionic vinyl ether.

9. (Previously Presented) An inkjet recording ink according to claim 1, wherein said at least one hydrophilic block in said high-molecular dispersant is formed of a nonionic vinyl ether.

10. (Previously Presented) An inkjet recording ink according to claim 1, wherein said at least one hydrophilic block in said high-molecular dispersant is composed of at least two blocks consisting of a block formed of a nonionic vinyl ether and a block formed of an anionic vinyl ether.

11. (Previously Presented) An inkjet recording ink according to claim 1, wherein said high-molecular dispersant is composed of a block formed of one of hydrophobic vinyl ethers, a block formed of one of nonionic hydrophilic vinyl ethers and a block formed of one of anionic hydrophilic vinyl ethers at least in this order.

12. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording method[,] for recording on a recording medium, said recording method comprising:

which is conducted by applying energy to an ink to cause said the ink to fly be dispersed onto a the recording medium, wherein ~~said~~ the ink is an ink as defined in claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording method according to claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ the energy is thermal energy.

14. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording method according to claim 12, wherein ~~said the~~ recording medium has an ink-receiving coating layer on at least one of opposite sides thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge ~~provided with~~ comprising:
an ink reservoir with an ink stored therein, wherein ~~said the~~ ink is an ink as defined in claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording system ~~provided with~~ comprising:
an ink cartridge, which is provided with an ink reservoir with an ink stored therein[,] ~~and~~
~~also with~~ and
a recording head portion for ejecting ~~said the~~ ink, wherein ~~said the~~ ink is an ink as defined in claim 1.